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has any relation to the luxuriant or to the meager development of the plants; so the problem remains unsolved why certain species live exclusively on the salt beach in contact with salts. If it is solvable, CASU says the clue must doubtless be sought in a profound and accurate study of the histological structure of the halophyte itself. To us that sounds hopeless.—C. R. B.

Polymorphism of Hymenomycetes.—LYMAN¹⁰ has made culture studies of certain Hymenomycetes, giving especial attention to woody and incrusting species, the primary object of the research being to obtain further knowledge of polymorphism in the group. The summarized results contain the following facts. The basidiospores of about 75 species of Polyporaceae, Hydnaceae, and Thelephoraceae were germinated and grown in pure cultures, and about 40 per cent. of them were found to possess some secondary method of reproduction, usually mycelial oidia or chlamydospores. Oidia were not found among the Thelephoraceae and Hydnaceae, but were produced by one-half of the species of Polyporaceae studied. Chlamydospores have been known in a few agarics and in a considerable number of Polyporaceae, but, aside from certain doubtful cases, were not known among the lower Hymenomycetes. The author found them much more common, especially upon the mycelium, than was known previously, finding them in over one-fourth of the species cultivated. Conidia or other rather highly specialized secondary methods of reproduction were found in seven species, all belonging to Thelephoraceae except *Lentodium*. The general conclusions are that a considerable majority of Hymenomycetes possess no secondary spores; that oidia are common among the Agaricaceae and Polyporaceae, and are confined to these two families; that chlamydospores occasionally occur in connection with the basidio-fructification, and are quite widely distributed on the mycelia of all families; and that conidia and other highly specialized secondary methods of reproduction are rare, occurring more frequently in the Thelephoraceae than in the higher families.—J. M. C.

Precipitin and relationship.—The precipitin reaction discovered by KRAUS and more fully marked out by TSCHISTOWITSCH and BORDET, and others, has been used by MAGNUS and FRIEDENTHAL¹¹ in an attempt to show experimentally the relationship of plants. The experiments were conducted as follows. Extracts containing albuminous substances were prepared from yeast, Tuber, and *Agaricus*, by the method used by BÜCHNER in the preparation of zymase solutions from yeast. These extracts were injected into animals, and after 12–14 days serum from the animals was treated with small quantities of the albuminous extracts. The yeast extract gave a precipitate with the serum of the animal that had been treated with yeast extract, a slight cloudiness with the serum of Tuber, but none

¹⁰ LYMAN, GEORGE RICHARD, Culture studies on polymorphism of Hymenomycetes. *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.* 33:125–209. *pls.* 18–26. 1907.

¹¹ MAGNUS, W., and FRIEDENTHAL, HANS, Ein experimenteller Nachweis natürlicher Verwandschaft. *Ber. Deutsch. Bot. Gesells.* 24:601–607. 1907.